

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 5-7 are pending in this application, wherein claims 2-4 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 is being amended to improve form, and claims 5-7 are being newly added, all as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a medical support system comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of patient terminals each configured to be used ~~individually~~ by a respective patient of a plurality of patients;

providing a plurality of medical institution terminals each configured to be used ~~individually~~ by a respective medical institution of a plurality of medical institutions; and

providing a management server, each patient terminal being connected with the medical institution terminals and the management server via a network, the medical institution terminals being connected with the management server via ~~[[a]]~~the network,

wherein the management server comprises a medical information storage device and a medical information control device,

wherein the medical information storage device stores a plurality of sets of medical information data that include including medical records, examination results, and medical images and that are each associated with a corresponding patient of the plurality of patients,

wherein the medical information control device controls input and output of each of the plurality of sets of medical information data to and from the medical information storage device according to permissions granted from the respective patient terminal configured to be used by the patient corresponding to the set of medical information data, and

wherein the medical information control device operates to perform a method of providing medical information management, the method comprising:

receiving a first request transmitted over the network from a first medical institution terminal of a plurality of medical institution terminals, the first request being a medical information reference request to allow a second medical institution terminal of the plurality of medical institution terminals to download a first set of medical information data stored in the medical

information storage device, the first set of medical information data being associated with a first patient of the plurality of patients;

transmitting a second request over the network to a first patient terminal of the plurality of patient terminals configured to be used by the first patient, the second request requesting permission to allow the second medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data;

receiving a first response over the network from the first patient terminal allowing the second medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data;

transmitting a notification of the first response and a download key for accessing the first set of medical information data in the medical information storage device to the second medical institution terminal;

generating reference permission data for the second medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device that is associated with the download key and the second medical institution terminal;

receiving a third request from the second medical institution terminal requesting to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device, the third request including the download key;

validating that the second medical institution terminal is permitted to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device using the download key included in the third request according to the reference permission data;

accessing the medical information storage device to retrieve the first set of medical information data; and

transmitting a representation of the first set of medical information data to the second medical institution terminal.

~~wherein said step of providing said management server comprises storing in a medical information storage device medical information of each patient and controlling an input and output of said medical information of each patient into and from said medical information storage device, the medical information including medical records, examination results, and medical images, and~~

~~wherein said step of controlling the input and output of said medical information via said medical information control device includes the steps of~~

~~upon receiving a request from a patient terminal of a first patient among the plurality of patients to upload in said management server medical information of said first patient managed by a medical institution among said plurality of medical institutions, transmitting upload permission key data for uploading said medical information of said first patient in said management server and a content of said medical information of said first patient to be uploaded by the request to a medical institution terminal of said medical institution from the managing server;~~

~~transmitting said upload permission key data from said medical institution terminal to the managing server;~~

~~upon receiving said upload permission key data transmitted from said medical institution terminal to the managing server, authenticating validity of said upload permission key data with the managing server, transmitting from the managing server to said medical institution terminal a permission response for transmitting said medical information of said first patient to said management server, and deferring upload of said medical information of said first patient in the managing server; and~~

~~upon receiving said medical information of said first patient transmitted from said medical institution terminal, storing said medical information of said first patient in said medical information storage device.~~

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (New) A computer-implemented method of providing medical information management, the method comprising:

receiving a first request transmitted over a network from a first medical institution terminal of a plurality of medical institution terminals used by respective medical institutions connected to the network, the first request being a medical information reference request to allow a second medical institution terminal of the plurality of medical institution terminals to download a first set of medical information data stored in a medical information storage device, the medical information storage device storing a plurality of sets of medical information data each associated with a corresponding patient identifier of a plurality of patient identifiers, the plurality of sets of medical information data including medical records,

examination results, and medical images, the first set of medical information data being associated with a first patient identifier of the plurality of patient identifiers;

transmitting a second request over the network to a first patient terminal of a plurality of patient terminals connected to the network, each of the plurality of patient terminals being associated with a respective patient identifier of the plurality of patient identifiers, the first patient terminal being associated with the first patient identifier, the second request requesting permission to allow the second medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data;

receiving a first response over the network from the first patient terminal allowing the second medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data;

transmitting a notification of the first response and a download key for accessing the first set of medical information data in the medical information storage device to the second medical institution terminal;

generating reference permission data for the second medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device that is associated with the download key and the second medical institution terminal;

receiving a third request from the second medical institution terminal requesting to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device, the third request including the download key;

validating that the second medical institution terminal is permitted to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device using the download key included in the third request according to the reference permission data;

accessing the medical information storage device to retrieve the first set of medical information data; and

transmitting a representation of the first set of medical information data to the second medical institution terminal.

6. (New) A computer-implemented method of providing medical information management, the method comprising:

receiving a first request transmitted over a network from a first patient terminal of a plurality of patient terminals connected to the network, each of the

plurality of patient terminals being associated with a respective patient identifier of a plurality of patient identifiers, the first request being a medical information upload request to upload a first set of medical information data from a first medical institution terminal of a plurality of medical institution terminals used by respective medical institutions connected to the network to a medical information storage device, the medical information storage device storing a plurality of sets of medical information data each associated with a corresponding patient identifier of the plurality of patient identifiers, the plurality of sets of medical information data including medical records, examination results, and medical images, the first patient terminal and the first set of medical information data being associated with a first patient identifier of the plurality of patient identifiers;

transmitting a notification of the first request and an upload key for uploading the first set of medical information data to the medical information storage device over the network to the first medical institution terminal;

generating upload permission data for the first medical institution terminal to upload the first set of medical information data to the medical information storage device that is associated with the upload key and the first medical institution terminal;

receiving a second request message from the first medical institution terminal requesting to upload the first set of medical information data to the medical information storage device, the second request message including the upload key;

validating that the first medical institution terminal is permitted to upload the first set of medical information data to the medical information storage device using the upload key included in the second request message according to the upload permission data;

receiving the first set of medical information data from the first medical institution terminal; and

accessing the medical information storage device to store the first set of medical information data associated with the first patient identifier therein.

7. (New) A computer-implemented method of providing medical information management, the method comprising:

receiving a first request transmitted over a network from a first medical institution terminal of a plurality of medical institution terminals used by respective medical institutions connected to the network, the first request being a medical

information download request to download a first set of medical information data from a medical information storage device, the medical information storage device storing a plurality of sets of medical information data each associated with a corresponding patient identifier of a plurality of patient identifiers, the plurality of sets of medical information data including medical records, examination results, and medical images, the first set of medical information data being associated with a first patient identifier of the plurality of patient identifiers;

transmitting a second request over the network to a first patient terminal of a plurality of patient terminals connected to the network, each of the plurality of patient terminals being associated with a respective patient identifier of the plurality of patient identifiers, the first patient terminal being associated with the first patient identifier, the second request requesting permission to allow the first medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data;

receiving a first response over the network from the first patient terminal allowing the first medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data;

transmitting a notification of the first response and a download key for downloading the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device over the network to the first medical institution terminal;

generating download permission data for the first medical institution terminal to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device that is associated with the download key and the first medical institution terminal;

receiving a third request from the first medical institution terminal requesting to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device, the third request including the download key;

validating that the first medical institution terminal is permitted to download the first set of medical information data from the medical information storage device using the download key included in the third request according to the download permission data;

accessing the medical information storage device to retrieve the first set of medical information data; and

transmitting a representation of the first set of medical information data to the first medical institution terminal.